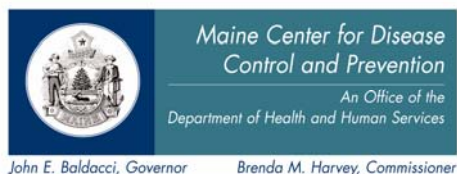


# Asthma

## Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Maine Department of Health and Human Services

- ❑ Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease of the airways. It is estimated that almost 15 million Americans are affected by asthma.
- ❑ It is estimated that 129,000 people in Maine have asthma, and 30,000 are between the ages of 0 and 14 (American Lung Association-Maine).
- ❑ Maine's adult population has one of the highest asthma prevalence rates in the United States (BRFSS 2003).
- ❑ Overweight and obese adults are more likely to have current asthma and lifetime asthma than adults of normal weight.
- ❑ Low income and minority populations experience higher rates of fatalities, hospital admissions and emergency room visits due to asthma.
- ❑ In 2002, asthma cost \$12.7 billion in the United States (CDC).



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In response to the prevalence of asthma in Maine, the Asthma Prevention and Control Program was created. This program works with others to support the Maine Asthma Council's mission to: *"Enhance the quality of life for Maine people affected by asthma."* A concerted effort has been launched to build strong synergistic partnerships to address the concern about this disease statewide. A bill to create the program was signed into law March 25, 2002.

### Program Goals:

To reduce the burden of asthma, a serious threat to the health and productivity of all those who live and work in Maine by:

- ❑ Monitoring asthma prevalence at the state and community levels and identify gaps and needs in data and surveillance;
- ❑ Providing education and training of health professionals on the current methods of diagnosing and treating asthma;
- ❑ Providing patient and family education on how to manage the disease;
- ❑ Developing public-private partnerships with key stakeholders;
- ❑ Collaborating with federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal and State agencies in program development, documentation and dissemination of information on programs shown to reduce hospitalization, emergency room visits and absenteeism due to asthma;
- ❑ Implementing the statewide comprehensive asthma plan and coordinate a system to support the ability of Maine people to live and work in environments where asthma risk factors are reduced to a minimum;
- ❑ Working with the Maine Asthma Council to advance asthma as a public health issue;
- ❑ Providing technical assistance and consultation to all asthma intervention sites in Maine.

### Priority Population:

All Maine residents affected by asthma, especially the undiagnosed and unmanaged population.

### Program Activities:

- ❑ A comprehensive asthma surveillance system has been established and is ongoing.
- ❑ The Maine Child Health Survey is being used to gather data on asthma as well as other child health status indicators.
- ❑ Using the Maine Asthma Plan as a guide, asthma control efforts are being expanded to the community level.
- ❑ Asthma education efforts have begun at provider practices.

### Funding Source:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cooperative agreement.

Budget (FY 07): \$335,000 (100% Federal funds)

Staff Count: 2